

Volume 26, No. 2, February 1994

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CAROLINA COUNTRY

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Commuting from the Country
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Serving 1.6 Million Consumers In 95 North Carolina Counties

CAROLINA COUNTRY

(ISSN 0008-6746)

Read monthly in more
than 335,000 homes

Volume 26, No. 2, February 1994



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Carolina Electric Cooperatives

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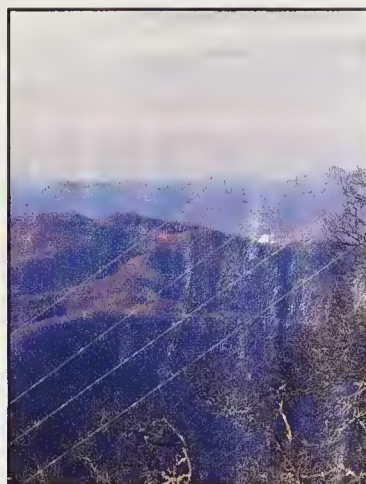
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On the Cover

Looking north on a late afternoon in winter, from 5,000 feet up among the mountains of Haywood County. The lines are maintained by Haywood Electric Membership Corporation. The photography is by Duane Salstrand, Raleigh.

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"We are dedicated to providing full access to emerging technologies"

Technology is fine if you know how to use it

By David J. Batten

Who would have imagined 20 years ago that today most of us would use a videocassette recorder?

Who would have imagined 40 years ago that today virtually all of us would use a television?

What are we not imagining today that most of us will use 20 years from now, or even 10 years from now?

Supercomputers? Videophones? Two-way TV? Electric cars?

Besides the question of *what* we will be using, there is the question of *where* it will be used.

Surely the technology explosion could be felt everywhere, from the most rural areas of this country to the most rural areas anywhere on the globe, and probably far into space as well.

But will the technology reach that far, or will some areas be left behind?

Today, if someone puts a TV satellite receiver in the most remote Australian village, that device can pick up TV programs as well as any TV in a U.S. city. But it is likely that the TV devices would have to be powered by electricity from a battery or diesel generator or solar electric system. It may be that the village itself has no electrical power.

But you can be sure that every villager (except perhaps the most superstitious) would want to see that TV program.

North Carolina is keeping pace with the rest of the nation and the world in introducing electronic technology and telecommunications.

Our "information highway" beginning this year will send voice, pictures and data from one end of the state to the other in seconds. (See *Carolina Country*,

January 1994.)

By mid-1994, digital TV signals will beam crystal-clear reception of 150 or more TV channels to affordable, 18-inch satellite dish antennas anywhere in the state. (See *Carolina Country*, December 1993.)

Portable computers, fax machines, and telecommunications equipment enable businesses to establish regional offices and employ people in any part of the state. (See *Carolina Country*, pages 6-7.)

All these advances can promote economic development and raise the standard of living equally across North Carolina.

Just as the U.S. Rural Electrification Administration and North Carolina's electric cooperatives in the 1930s and 1940s provided electric service to rural areas, we are dedicated today to providing our consumer-members full access to existing and emerging information technologies.

The southeastern North Carolina area, much of which is served by our electric cooperative, Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, is proud to have the state's leading telecommunications network linking schools and colleges with hospitals and supercomputers.

Our neighboring cooperative, Four County Electric Membership Corporation, which serves approximately 23,000 consumer-members in Bladen, Sampson, Duplin and Pender counties, was a leading contributor toward the \$121,114 in local matching funds that attracted a \$484,452 REA grant for the technology serving that network. It will help equip video classrooms that can connect local

public schools and colleges so that students and staff can learn and teach not only among each other, but also among institutions elsewhere in the state and beyond.

The 28 co-ops comprising Carolina Electric Cooperatives understand the benefits of telecommunications. We know that direct connection to regional and national centers of education, health care, government, culture and commerce can greatly enhance life in our communities.

We also understand that technology and services are only as helpful as the people who use the technology and provide the services.

It always has been the mission of our cooperatives to provide safe, reliable and economical energy and service to our members. As we enter the age of rapidly changing technology, communication and transportation, our mission will remain the same.

You can count on Carolina Electric Cooperatives to help ensure not only that all parts of North Carolina have the opportunities to receive digital TV, fiber optic cable and related services, but you also can expect to see us helping teach people and organizations how to make use of it for the good of the community. After all, what good is a computer, or a VCR, or an "interactive TV" if you do not know how to use it?

David J. Batten is general manager of Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, Shallotte. He is also a member of the board and past president of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative.



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3

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4

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For More Information

Living in the country and working in town

By Sharon O'Malley

When Tim Salapek needs to concentrate, his bustling Research Triangle Park office is no place to do it.

So once a week, instead of knotting a tie and driving to work, he pulls on a pair of sweats and sits in his home office.

"Realistically, I'm at my computer about a half-hour or hour sooner than I would be," says Salapek, staff manager of marketing for telecommuting programs at Northern Telecom.

And, says Salapek, working at home is quiet and distraction-free.

"Your attention span is greater and you can focus more," he says. "It's true, you can get 10 to 30 percent more done."

Salapek is one of a growing number of telecommuters in North Carolina and around the country. In an informal arrangement, he allows his staff to work at home during busy times.

"We primarily telecommute to get away from the office noise on major projects," he says.

That may mean a day away from the office once a week or once a month. At other North Carolina companies—IBM, Research Triangle Institute, Glaxo, Duke University and the University of North Carolina, to name a few—selected employees work at home from one to five days a week.

The U. S. Department of Transportation figures that nationally last year there were 2 million "telecommuters"—people who are employed full-time by companies but work at least one day a week from home. DOT predicts that there will be

between 7.5 million and 15 million within a decade, and that doesn't include people who are self-employed or who own small businesses.

The growing trend could be good news for rural people and for rural economies: "If you have a computer, a fax and a modem, then your location is not important," says Tom Gibson, staff manager for the Washington, D.C.-based National Telecommuting and Telework Association (NTTA). "Telecommuting offers great advantages to rural areas."



Transcriptionist Glenna Harris works for MedTran from her Swannanoa dining room.

well in an office atmosphere. Some people work better in an unstructured environment."

Glenna Harris says that's true of her. A veteran transcriptionist, she left the world of hospital shift work to type at home. Now, "if I want to type in the morning, I can type in the morning. It just depends what the day holds."

Harris, who lives in rural Swannanoa, receives and sends her work—she transcribes tapes made by doctors when a patient is admitted to a hospital—via

computer modem to the Asheville office. "There's no gas to go back and forth," she says. And she's productive: "I'm in a real quiet place. There's nobody bothering me. There are no interruptions unless I make them myself."

Less pollution, higher productivity

Allowing employees to work at home has benefits for the worker, the employer and society.

"Employees absolutely love it," says Michael Clish, co-owner of Clish Resources, an Eden Prairie, Minn., consulting firm.

"It is the No. 1 employee retention tool in the marketplace. If you want to keep someone forever, let them telecommute one day a week."

Clish cites reduced commuting time as a popular feature with employees who want to spend less time on the road and more time with their families. And, like Salapek, he says the quiet solitude of a home office is better for writing, studying or reading. The National Telecommutin

At work in Swannanoa

The concept is working for MedTran, an Asheville-based medical transcription service whose 23 transcriptionists all work from their homes after spending an initial one to six-month training period in the office.

"Mainly, they work at home because they have small children who they don't want to leave," says co-owner Paulette Fennell. "But some people don't do very

Paul Brezny

and Telework Association points out that employees who work at home get sick less often because they're not exposed to contagious flus and colds that can travel around an office. Employees who telecommute also report greater productivity, because of the lack of workplace interruptions and the low-stress atmosphere created by a solitary workspace.

That higher productivity translates into benefits for the employer, who also saves money on the office space the telecommuter once occupied. And storms and snow days can't keep a telecommuter away from the office.

Also, telecommuting is good for the environment, says the U. S. Department of Transportation: If the trend moves at its current pace, home workers will save 1.5 billion gallons of gas and spew 3.5 million fewer metric tons of carbon into the air in the year 2000. The federal Environmental Protection Agency encourages telecommuting as a way to reduce pollution.

Employers have been slow to embrace the concept, though, because it requires them to manage their workers differently.

Most managers "are thinking from the Industrial Age rather than from the Information Age," says Clish. "The mentality

is that they have to watch someone like on a production line, and if you don't, they won't produce. If you send them home with a P.C., they'll watch soap operas or play with their kids. That's not the case."

He recommends that employers carefully select would-be telecommuters. "It's not something you can do on a blanket basis," he advises. "You only choose people who are producers in the office. They're the ones who will probably produce at home."

"I have my office with me"

Kathleen Bernard worked for 18 months at the North Carolina Supercomputer Center in Research Triangle Park. But she had a home in the Washington, D.C. area that she was unable to sell, and decided to return to the capital city. She transferred to the Minneapolis-based Minnesota Supercomputer Center when it offered her the option of working from her Washington home.

As director of technology policy and federal programs, Bernard makes routine visits to federal agencies and members of Congress, so it makes sense, she says, for her to live in Washington.

It's far cheaper for her employer to allow her to work from her home than it would be to rent expensive metropolitan office space.

She has computer, a modem, a printer, a plain-paper fax machine and a personal copier at home. And because her four-and-a-half-pound computer has enough memory to store all of her files and is lightweight enough to carry, she brings her work to Minnesota once a month when she visits the home office.

"In essence, I have my office with me when I go to Minneapolis," Bernard says.

Her trips north are essential to the success of her workstyle, Bernard says.

It's easy for people who are telecommuting to be out of the informal communications that are in the hallways. There's critical information there, and you miss it if you're not there," she says. Because her company employs just 80 people, she and other telecommuters can "go back once a month to reach out and touch everybody, so to speak. That's not possible in bigger companies." ●

Freelance writer Sharon O'Malley recently has been telecommuting to Washington, D.C.

Western N.C. can attract "telebusiness" centers

Jerry Plemmons, director of community and economic development for French Broad Electric Membership Corporation in Marshall, sees telecommuting and other innovative workstyles as a potential boon for rural economic development.

"By telecommuting, folks are able to live obviously anywhere in the world in many cases," Plemmons says. "The areas here in the mountains that are very appealing, because of the quality of life, could be very appealing to telecommuters who have very good incomes and who have personal wealth to invest. That's good for the economy."

Plemmons hopes to take the concept a step further. He is working with Carolina West, a development group that hopes to open "telebusiness" centers in rural areas surrounding Yancey, Transylvania, Mitchell, Madison, Haywood, Henderson and Buncombe counties.

The centers would be equipped with state-of-the-art telecommunications equipment—videoconferencing, digital telephones, fax machines, voice mail and the like—and available to companies whose employees live long distances from headquarters.

James Beatty, president of the Omaha-based National

Consulting Systems Inc., hopes the North Carolina telebusiness centers—which are still in the planning stage—will attract not only telecommuters but companies that want temporary, inexpensive overflow space. And hospitals and universities could rent space for satellite clinics and classes, linking doctors and students, via videoconferencing, with their main branches.

"Telecommuting does not just mean working in your home," Beatty says.

"If a rural telephone company has digital services, that's going to be a big factor," says Tim Salapek of Northern Telecom in Research Triangle Park. "That's what gives the telecommuter the on-ramp to the information highway that they need."

And that could spur small-town population growth, keep native ruralites at home and improve the tax base, Jerry Plemmons says.

It's a means of piping in higher-paid knowledge work to rural areas, he says. And by eliminating the need to leave the rural area, or to accept a very long commute, it allows successive generations to stay in the communities and strengthen them. ●



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A word game

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Charles G. Joyner

Can you re-arrange the letters in each of the 10 expressions below to spell the name of a North Carolina city or town?

1. TWIN MALE SONS _____
2. A PINK ROSE ROAD _____
3. MY TURN COOK _____
4. SWING NO HAT _____
5. MOON GRANT _____
6. GO THIN HIP _____
7. EVIL LEASH _____
8. HEARD TOY MICE _____
9. THE CAR LOT _____
10. IN KNOTS _____

Answers on page 25.

Charles G. Joyner lives in Hendersonville.

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Riverwood Model pictured above. 2/94

Remember the energy crisis?

Twenty years after the oil embargo, a large majority of Americans not only remember the energy crisis, but also believe it will happen again, according to a national poll conducted by Americans for Energy Independence, an energy policy organization located in Washington, D.C.

The poll found that 68 percent remember the 1973 energy crisis, and 88 percent think the United States could experience another oil shock.

Nationwide, oil imports have increased 23 percent, from 6 million barrels of oil a day in 1973 to 7.4 million barrels of oil a day in the first six months of 1993. The poll found that 56 percent of Americans don't know that the U.S. imports more oil than 20 years ago.

Electric utilities use less oil

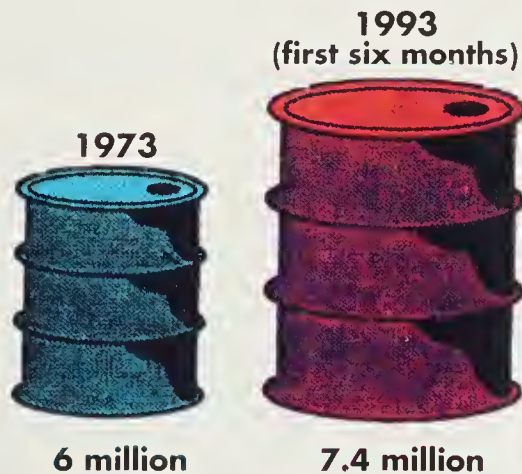
While the U.S. actually imports more oil today than it did in 1973, the nation's electric utilities decreased their consumption by using other fuels to generate electricity. Electric utilities used 1.5 million barrels of oil each day before the energy crisis to generate electricity; today they use fewer than 500,000 barrels daily.

The major change cited in the nation's electric energy supply since the 1973 embargo is that the contributions of nuclear energy and oil have reversed. In 1973, oil accounted for 17 percent of our utility-generated electricity; today it is only 3 percent. During the same period, nuclear energy's share grew from 4 percent to 33 percent. Coal remains the largest source at 56 percent, with hydroelectric and natural gas at 11 percent each.

20 Years After the Oil Embargo

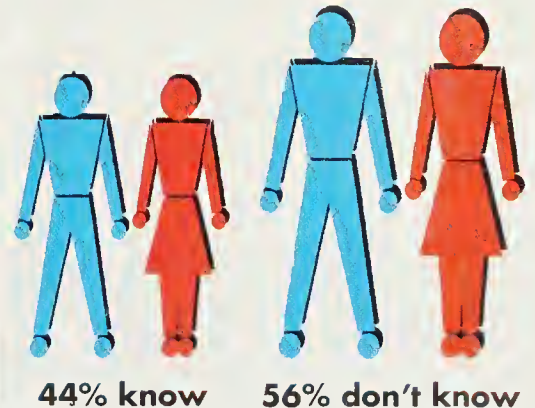
Fact: Imports Are Up By 23%...

Barrels of Oil Per Day



Source: DOE/EIA Monthly Energy Review 1993

Do Americans Know We Import More Oil?



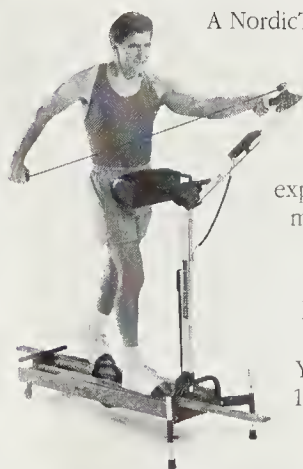
Source: Bruskin/Goldring 9/93

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After electricity came, my aunt had a radio. She was a real religious person, and she thought it was a sin to listen to anything on it except preaching or gospel music. But for some reason, it wasn't a sin on Saturday night to listen to "The Grand Ole Opry" on that radio!

— Shirley Collier, Hope Mills

The uplifting power of radio and "The Grand Ole Opry"

By Parker Philips



National Archives / REA Collection

Think of how often a song on the radio cheers you up, revives a memory, or otherwise strikes an emotional chord in your soul.

For many in North Carolina, that emotional chord first sounded 60 years ago when Nashville radio station WSM boosted its power to 50,000 watts on its 650 AM clear-channel frequency. That powerful signal sent "The Grand Ole Opry" across the air waves of the South every Saturday night.

In the midst of the Great Depression and before electricity came to the countryside, most rural North Carolinians had to go into town to listen to the broadcast of what was known as "hill-billy music." The more fortunate had a battery-operated "head-set" radio, such as the "Delco." Wearing headphones to hear, however, only one listener at the time could listen to such models. The sole listener sat motionless at attention, straining in vain to hear. The fading in and out of the elusive signal was a frustrating consolation to an unsatisfactory reception.

As the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 spurred formation of consumer-owned electric cooperatives in remote

communities across the state, "wall current" was the fantastic new phenomenon, allowing one to "plug in" and, presto, enjoy lights and power.

The early co-ops saw to it that the sparsely populated, secluded areas deemed not feasible, economically, by the major power companies, had power. Co-ops everywhere extended the proverbial "helping hand" to their rural constituents, assisting in lifting them from the stresses of the Depression.

But "The Grand Ole Opry" was equally uplifting. Like a beacon in the night, WSM beamed its signal. Then, like magic, a transfusion of unforgettable performances was sent into the inner sanctum of each listener's consciousness.

Folks heard Clyde Moody's "Shenandoah Waltz." Roy Acuff sang "Wabash

Cannonball." Cousin Minnie Pearl's cordial "HowDee!" was instantly recognized and adored.

While Ernest Tubb was "Walking the Floor Over You," an ever cheerful Mother Maybelle and the Carter Family were telling all to "Keep On the Sunny Side of Life!"

The super station

A 30-year-old radio buff, Edwin Craig, son of the president of Nashville-based National Life and Accident Insurance Company, persuaded his dad's company to establish the station WSM in 1925. The call letters came from the company's motto, "We Shield Millions." WSM lured George D. Hay from Chicago's WLS, and he brought the live

broadcast of the Saturday night "barn dance" to Nashville in 1926. Hay's program aired just after a weekly opera, and in December 1927, he spontaneously dubbed his show "The Grand Ole Opry."

The broadcasts soon became a vehicle for selling insurance via the airwaves to a rural clientele. National Life and Accident salesmen across the South found willing takers for tickets to "Grand Ole Opry" performances in Nashville. The WSM studio was the weekly site of mob scenes as fans tried to see the musicians they had been hearing over the airwaves.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company became a sponsor. In the 1940s, "The Prince Albert Show" was a Saturday night fixture, and the Camel Caravan

continued on page 14



Heel banjo picker Earl Scruggs (third from left) from Flint Hill, with Lester Flatt (far right).

Courtesy of the Country Music Foundation, Inc

took Opry stars on the road, where they performed under a tent while "cigarette girls" passed out the smokes.

The super stars

Gracing the Opry stage weekly was an array of stars, ranging from musicians and singers to comedians. Hailing from Appalachia and beyond, one's appearance on the Opry was an instant assurance of country stardom.

A typical Saturday night broadcast featured the likes of Moon Mulligan and his honky-tonk piano singing "I'll Sail My Ship Alone." The antics of the Duke of Paducah spiced many broadcasts, always closing his portion of the show with his classic line: "I'm headin' for the wagon boys, these shoes are killin' me!"

Opry broadcasts of the 30s, 40s and 50s were larger than life and intoxicating as magic. The Opry stage was sacred to all who graced it. Each broadcast was hallowed by those who heard it.

The emotional chords were heard throughout the rural South.

From the lament of Cowboy Copas' "Signed, Sealed and Delivered" to the frivolity of Wayne Rainey's "Why Don't You Haul Off and Love Me One More Time?" tears and laughter were interchanged with ease.

Never failing to tug at the heartstrings of each and every Opry audience was the woeful tale of unrequited love, "A Dear John Letter," sung by Jean Shepherd and Ferlin Husky. Carl Smith's "Let Old Mother Nature Have Her Way" was a sure-fired crowd pleaser, every time.

Elton Britt rallied a call to patriotism each time he sang "There's A Star Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere!" Johnny Wright and Kitty Wells could invoke immediate repentance with the old spiritual "He Will Set Your Fields On Fire!"

Acute emotional display, combined with artesian energy from the artists, left each listener with an indescribable entertainment high.

Through the years an incredible "who's who" of performers have claimed kinship with the Opry.

Earl Scruggs, a Flint Hill boy, played with the Carolina Wildcats on a Gastonia radio station, then with Carl Story on WWNC in Asheville before reaching the Nashville stage.

Connie B. Gay of Lizard Lick was the first Opry performer to take country music to a Washington, D.C. audience, according to Chet Hagan's 1989 history of the Nashville institution. The broadcasts were aired by WARL radio in Virginia in 1946.

The list of stars is huge. It includes: Red Foley, Sam and Kirk McGee, Little Jimmy Dickens, Rod Brassfield, Bill Monroe, Pee Wee King and his Golden West Cowboys featuring vocalist Redd Stewart, Wilma Lee and Stony Cooper, Porter Wagoner, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn,



National Archives / REA Collection

Hawkshaw Hawkins, Bill Anderson, Charlie and Ira Louvin, Charlie Walker, Billy Walker, the Browns, Carl and Pearl Butler, Webb Pierce, Lew Childre, Ray Price, Hank Snow, Faron Young, the Wilburn Brothers, Teddy and Doyle, and even Eddy Arnold, for a time.

Perennial songs and dynamic artists created unforgettable memories from this era of radio.

Hank Williams applauds the "electric company"

The REA was making it possible for families in remote places to be embraced by the miracle of electric power and "The Grand Ole Opry" at the same time. Into treacherous mountain hollows and deep, murky swamps powerlines were erected. A newfound sense of security was realized by those living in these desolate locales.

Loyalty has always been strong with

electric co-op members, ever appreciative of the service their local co-op renders to their community. The owners, as patrons are the co-op's best advertisement.

In the early days, the local cooperative was known simply as "the electric company."

The great Hank Williams Sr. paid tribute to the co-ops of his day in a song. Often featured in his "live" radio programs, Hank would introduce the song simply by "dedicating this next tune to all the good folks down at 'the electric company.'" The song "Leave a Light in Your Window" would follow.

Still going strong today, "The Grand Ole Opry" is America's longest running "live" radio program. Looking back, WSM's motto, "We Shield Millions," may

be an understatement. Countless lives have been enhanced by WSM's programming and sponsorship of the Opry. So are the untold lives that have been brightened by the REA and its offspring.

The REA helped contribute to the social and economic progress of an agrarian, rural nation needing a "boost." This is comparable to the role the railroad played in consolidation of a young, fledgling nation in the mid-1800s. The REA helped fill the void that existed between the urban and rural sectors of our country the

first half of this century. Today, lights shine where once there was darkness, thanks to the many electric cooperatives across the nation.

Here's to "all the good folks down at the electric company!" Thank you all for never failing to "Leave a Light in Your Window" and allowing so many for so long to bask in its glow! ☀

Parker Philips is a member of a Bertie County gun club served by Roanoke EMC. "Within sight of my home in Battleboro," he says, "I can see the Edgcombe-Martin County powerlines, although I am on the N.C. Power service myself. Likewise, I'm very familiar with the service provided by Halifax EMC. In each case, these EMCs do a superb job serving their patrons."

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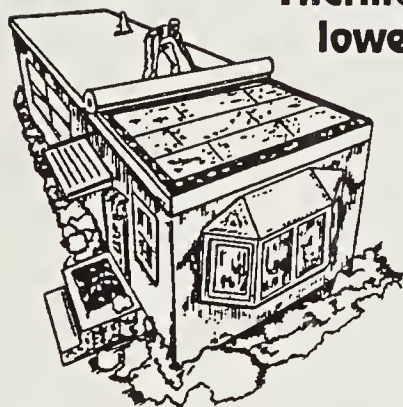
Try Rosemary Herb Tea for just 14 days, and if for any reason you are not 100% satisfied, your money will be cheerfully refunded. You keep the herb tea infuser as our gift to you! That's how sure we are you're going to enjoy your **Rosemary Herb Tea**. Send check or money-order for \$9.95 plus \$2 for shipping to Indiana Botanic Gardens, Inc., P.O. Box 5, Dept. CCNG, Hammond, IN 46325.

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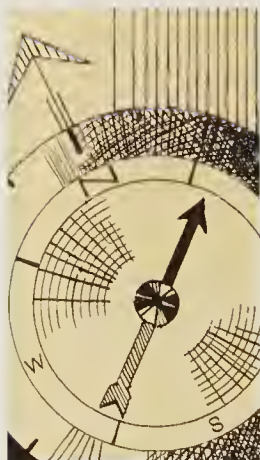
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- ☐ Deteriorates annually

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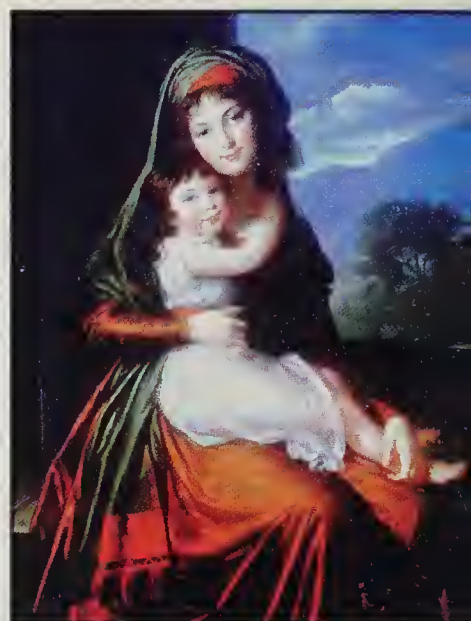


Winter
diversions.

Museum opens Samuel H. Kress exhibit

Feb. 5 - April 24, Raleigh

The North Carolina Museum of Art is the opening venue for "A Gift to America: Masterpieces of European Painting from the Samuel H. Kress Collection." First national tour of Old Master paintings from the Samuel H. Kress collection features four centuries of European masterpieces acquired by museums across the nation through the philanthropy of Samuel H. Kress, founder of the chain of S. H. Kress & Co. variety stores. Includes 54 Italian, Dutch, Flemish, French and Spanish paintings from 16 museums across the country and the Musee du Louvre in Paris. Lectures, concerts and children's art workshops. Contact N.C. Museum of Art, 2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27607-6494. Phone: (919) 833-1935.



University of Arizona Museum of Art

"The Countess von Schonfeld With Her Daughter," by LeBrun

Lope Max Diaz

Feb. 12 - April 24,
Charlotte

The Mint Museum of Art hosts the work of Lope Max Diaz: constructivist/geometric paintings which come from ideas and fantasies related to ancestral, cosmic and landscape events. Contact The Mint Museum of Art, 2730 Randolph Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28207. Phone: (704) 337-2000.

Dance and suite

Feb. 12 and 25,
Winston-Salem

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) will host the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. The Mallarme' Chamber Players/Two Near the Edge will perform "Dream Steps: A Dance Suite for Flute, Viola and Harp" on Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Contact SECCA, 750 Marguerite Dr., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106. Phone: (910) 725-1904.

Miniature Magic

Through Feb. 13, Statesville

The Arts & Science Center hosts Miniature Magic featuring Miniborough, N.C., a miniature village showcasing the shops and activities of Victorian life. Also, a collection of Japanese toys recently given to the Arts & Science Center's permanent collection from the Smithsonian Institute. Contact The Arts & Science Center, 1335 Museum Rd., Statesville, N.C. 28677. Phone: (704) 873-4734.

North Carolina architecture program

Feb. 17, New Bern

A slide/lecture program on architecture with a focus on the New Bern area will be held at the New Bern Public Library auditorium. Another program will be held March 17 at 7 p.m. with Reid Thomas, preservation specialist of the Eastern Division of Archives and History. Contact New Bern Historical Society, P.O. Box 119, New Bern, N.C. 28563. Phone: (919) 638-8558.

Herbs by the sea

Feb. 18-20, Wilmington

North Carolina Herb Association annual conference. Contact J. M. Davis, 2016 Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher, N.C. 28732.

Winter arts festival

Feb. 25-26, Winston-Salem

Opening gala Friday night features a silent auction of donated art. Proceeds benefit the Senior Services Alzheimer's Center. At the Sawtooth Building downtown. On Saturday, admission is free to the public. Exhibits from artists from across the southeast. Contact Katherine Davis, 1910 Brantley St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103. Phone: (919) 722-6579.

Southern Spring show salutes Canada

Feb. 26-March 6, Charlotte

Featuring 22 landscaped gardens, 23 designer-inspired rooms, a 30-foot replica section of Ottawa's Peace Tower (a clock and carillon spire) surrounded by a 2,000 square-foot garden of tulips. The Bonsai Society of the Carolinas will present its largest competitive exhibit and will demonstrate techniques for trimming and molding these trees. A gala preview on Feb. 25 will benefit the historic Hezekiah Alexander House. Contact Southern Shows, P.O. Box 36859, Charlotte, N.C. 28236. Phone: (704) 376-6594.



Battle of Moores Creek Bridge

Feb. 26-27, Currie

Living encampments by the Guilford Militia and the N.C. Highland Regiment, demonstrations of militia drills, cooking, shooting, weapons firing, colonial medicine, music and other aspects of 18th Century soldier life. Bobby Gilmer Moss, professor emeritus of Limestone College, will speak at a formal program Feb. 27 at Patriot Hall. Contact Moores Creek National Battlefield, P.O. Box 69, Currie, N.C. 28435. Phone: (919) 283-5591.

Art exhibit

through Feb. 27, Dallas

"Ralph Ray: A Retrospective" at the Gaston County Museum of Art and History. Contact the museum at 131 West Main St., P.O. Box 429, Dallas, N.C. 28034-0429.



Ralph Ray



Recreational boating exhibit

Beaufort

A new exhibit on recreational boating features a 1958 Barbour Silver Clipper displayed in a setting reminiscent of a 1950s showroom. The second part of the exhibit, "Throw away the Oars," focuses on outboard motors from the 1920s to the 1960s. Contact N. C. Maritime Museum, 315 Front St., Beaufort, N.C. 28516. Phone: (919) 728-7317.

Dixie Deer Classic

March 4-6, Raleigh

Five experts on deer hunting will appear at this three-day exhibition in the Jim Graham Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. Features more than 220 exhibitors, including top North Carolina whitetail trophies. Sponsored by the Wake County Wildlife Club. Open March 4, 4 to 9 p.m.; March 5, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; March 6, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the wildlife club, P.O. Box 99048, Raleigh, N.C. 27624. Phone: (919) 782-5333.

Women's creativity

March 19, Charlotte

Day-long celebration of women's creativity in art, music, writing, food and performance for women of all ages and cultures. Takes place at Central Piedmont Community College. Pre-registration required through Persephone's Celebration, 4927 Elder Ave., Charlotte, N.C. Phone: (704) 553-1420.

Deadlines

Deadlines for submitting notices to "Here, There and Everywhere."

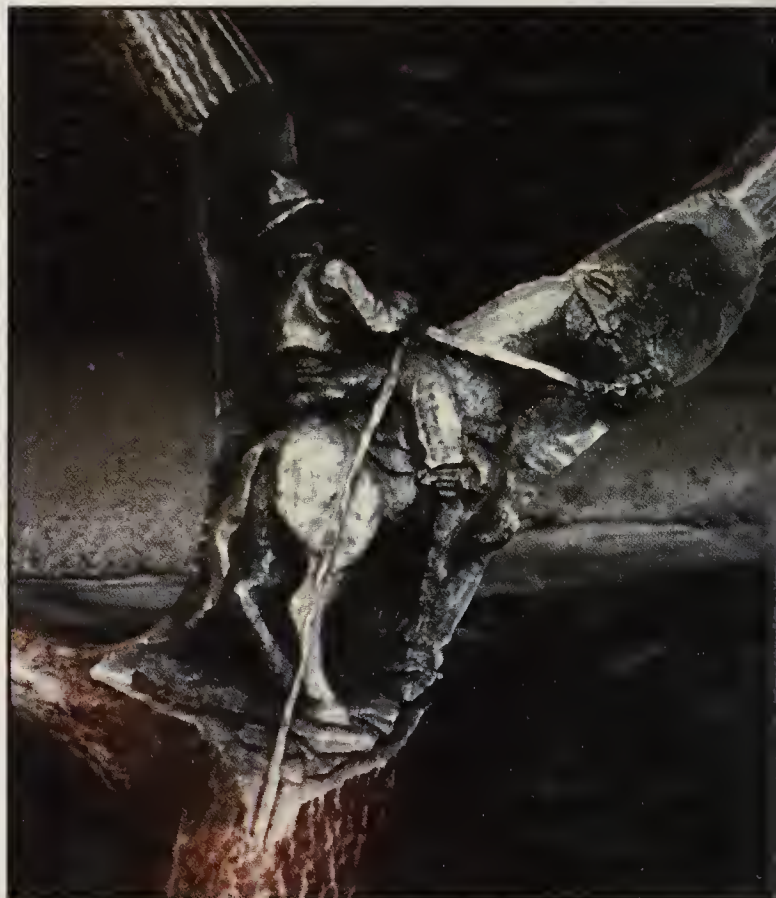
April issueFeb. 25
May issueMarch 25
June issueApril 25

We welcome photos and illustrations of coming events. Send notices to Calendar, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.



Charles Campbell, carver.

Old West scenes carved in antlers



"From a mountain man's beard to the old flintlock rifle he is carrying, I want it to look real, as if it is alive."

Photographs by Mick Shaver

Charles Campbell of Union Grove in Iredell County is a 37-year-old carver who renders scenes of the outdoors and the West in deer and elk antlers.

Most of the antlers he uses were shed naturally by deer or elk and are obtained from outlets in the West or Tennessee. Also, people ask Campbell to render carvings in antlers from their own private collections.

It is exacting, detailed work that begins with a drawing on paper. Once he draws a scene, Campbell places an appropriate set of antlers in a vise. He uses various sizes of bits in both a small dentist's drill and an industrial drill to carve the scene.

Campbell employs similar techniques to carve in wood and clay.

An artist since boyhood, Campbell has studied the work of Charles Russell and Frederick Remington, artists of the American West. He also regularly travels west to immerse himself in the scenes he appreciates. At the Buffalo Bill Historical Museum in Cody, Wyo., for example, he examines the animals, clothing, tools and appearances of the people who pioneered settlement in the West. At Yellowstone National Park and Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming, he says, he can spend hours gazing at natural landscapes and watching deer, elk, bear and other animals while imagining scenes he can draw and carve.

"I try to make every detail as authentic as possible," Campbell says. "From mountain man's beard to the old flintlock rifle he is carrying, I want it to look real, as if it is alive."

Before making carving his full-time work, Charles Campbell was a dairy farmer in Union Grove. His carvings are in private collections from Oklahoma to New York. For information, contact Charles Campbell, Rte. 1 Box 10, Union Grove, N.C. 28689. ☎

The photographs published here were taken by Campbell's friend and fellow outdoorsman, Mick Shaver of Hamptonville. Shaver is a member of Cresce Electric Membership Corporation.

Update on digital TV service

Demand for the 18-inch satellite dish television antenna (*Carolina Country*; December 1993) is outrunning the production process, so that dealers may not have sufficient quantities in stock until summer, according to the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative.

The antenna, expected to cost \$700 to \$900, will be capable of receiving the 150-plus TV channels that the Hughes Corporation DirecTV™ satellites will beam to rural areas nationwide.

The first DirecTV satellite was launched successfully in December. More than 70 channels will be available from that

satellite beginning in April. A second satellite to handle another 70 or 80 TV channels is scheduled to be launched in late summer, according to NRTC.

But the 18-inch dish antenna designed to receive the signals may not be available to dealers until summer. By that time electronics stores and affiliates of the manufacturer could carry

enough of the units to meet demand.

The dish is being manufactured by Thomson Consumer Electronics, which also makes RCA-brand equipment. It will be sold under the name Digital Satellite System™ (DSS™). The DSS equipment will include a receiver/decoder box, a remote control and the 18-inch dish antenna. The price of this equipment, excluding installation, is projected to range from around \$600 for a basic set-up to \$899 for a deluxe unit which allows viewers to watch multiple televisions tuned to different channels, with the purchase of additional receivers.

In late 1993, newspaper ads for "the small dish" marketed by Satellites of America, with a Texas address, were deemed fraudulent by NRTC, and consumers have been warned about misleading claims. Only the RCA/Thomson DSS equipment includes the 18-inch dish.

The programming will be sold on a subscriber basis, as cable service is sold.

The programming is scheduled to be a mix of cable, broadcast, pay-per-view movies, specials and live sports. The channels signed to the service so far include Cartoon Network, CNN,

CNN International, Country Music Television, C-SPAN, C-SPAN 2, The Disney Channel, The Discovery Channel, E! Entertainment, The Family Channel, Headline News, The Learning Channel, The Nashville Network, The Sci-Fi Channel, Superstation TBS, Turner Classic Movies, Turner Network Television and USA Network. Last month, ESPN was added to the group. More programming announcements are expected soon.

In addition to cable channels, DirecTV has lined up Columbia Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, TriStar International, Paramount Pictures, Universal Television and the

Turner/MGM library to provide movies for its pay-per-view channels.

In North Carolina, PrimeWatch Inc., a subsidiary of Halifax Electric Membership Corporation, Enfield, remains the only cooperative-based utility in North Carolina licensed to sell DirecTV programming and the 18-inch dish and receiver.

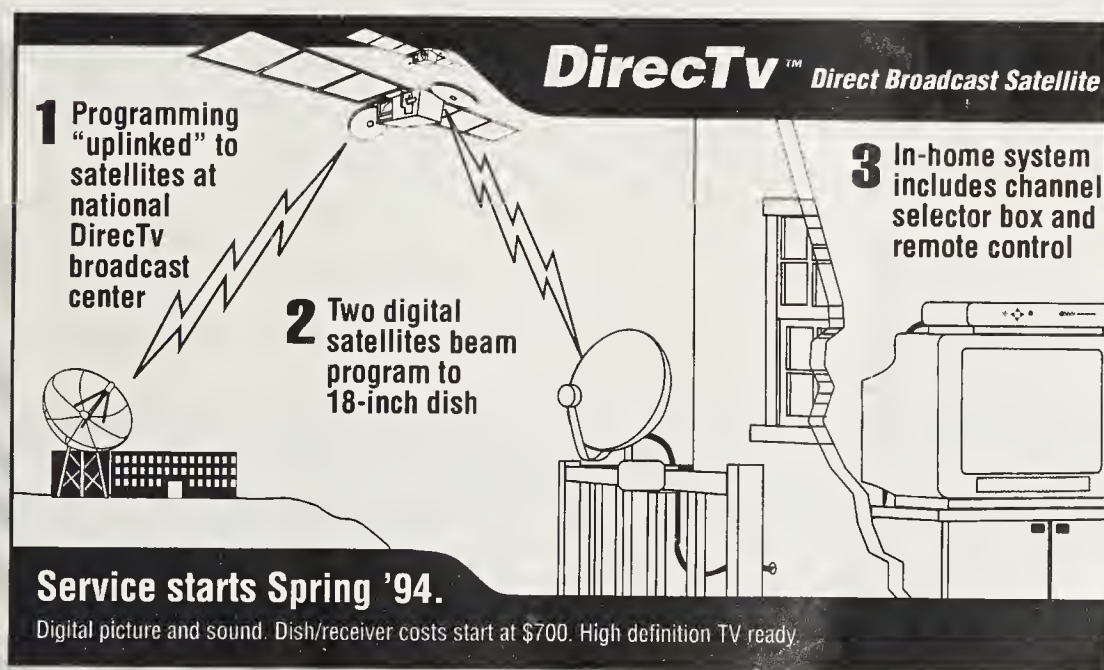
PrimeWatch is licensed to offer

full hardware and program services in the Halifax EMC service area and beyond, including all of Halifax, Nash, Warren and Edgecombe counties. Negotiations are underway to offer full services in other North Carolina counties.

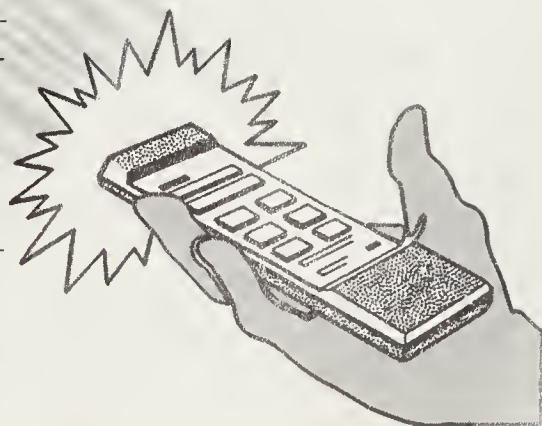
Other North Carolina electric cooperatives are members of NRTC, but only Halifax EMC has entered the DirecTV business. However, Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, serving southeastern North Carolina, is offering its members information about the service.

For more information about the PrimeWatch services in northeastern North Carolina, call 1-800-775-0068.

For more information about DirecTV in general, call 1-800-533-8484. ●



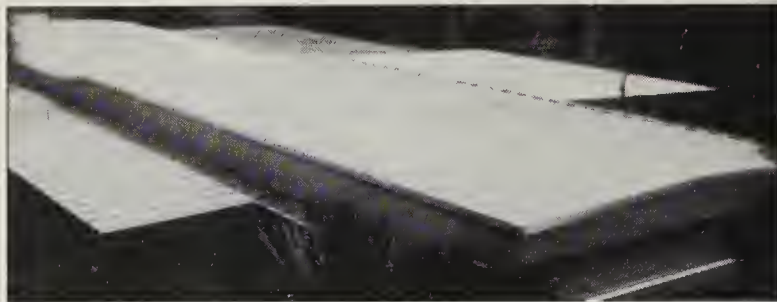
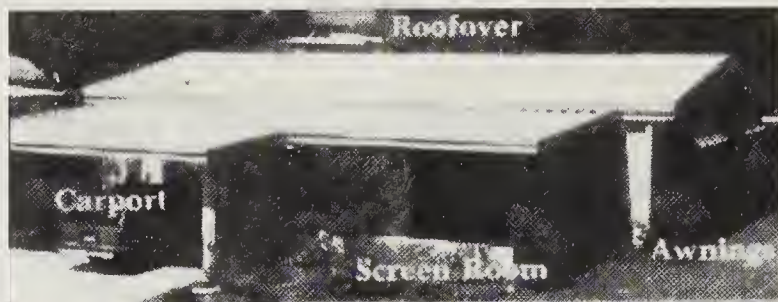
Source: National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative



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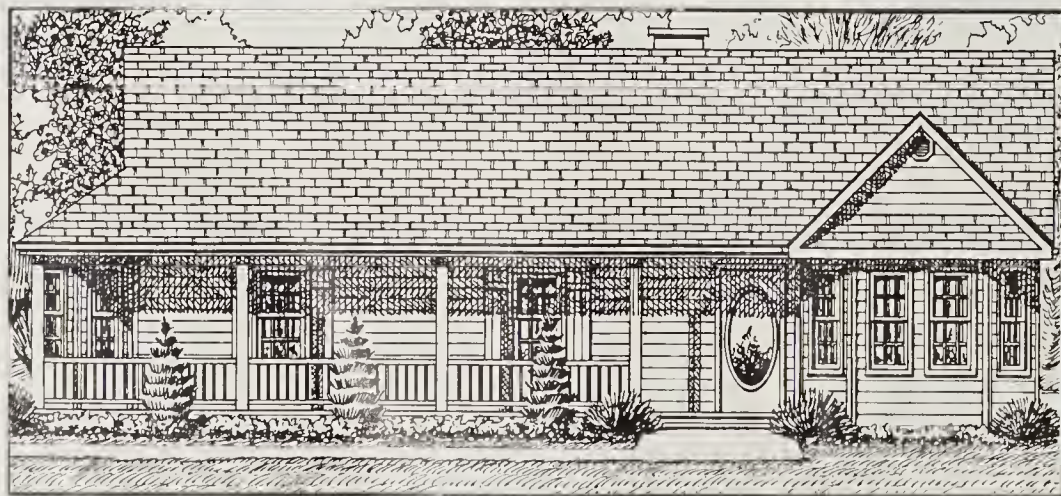
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Golf Privilege Card

The American Lung Association's Golf Privilege Cards entitle the holder to play a round or more of golf free or at a reduced rate at 150 courses in eastern North Carolina.

Proceeds from the sale go to the American Lung Association of North Carolina Eastern Region and are used to provide programs and services.

Special discount rates are available when purchasing multiple cards.

Contact Sadie Daughety, American Lung Association, 112 S. Pitt Street, Greenville, N.C. 27835-1407. Phone: (800) 849-5949.



A new journal of "Southern Cultures"

"Southern Cultures," a new quarterly published by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will feature book reviews, polling data and cultural information about the South.

Edited by history professor Harry L. Watson and Kenan professor of sociology John Shelton Reed, the goal of the publication is to inspire readers to think seriously about the diversity of culture in the South and to appeal to readers from outside universities as well as scholars who want to stretch beyond their own specialties.

Contributions to the first issue concern literature, architecture, linguistics and oral history.

For subscription information, contact John S. Reed, 109 Manning Hall, Sociology Dept., UNC-CH, N.C. 27599-3355.

Executive and board changes in electric cooperative agencies

N.C. Rural Electrification Authority

Governor Jim Hunt recently appointed three new members to the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority board.

The primary responsibility of the five-member state REA board is to review loan applications before the applications are submitted to the federal Rural Electrification Administration. The board serves North Carolina's 28 electric cooperatives, five electric cooperatives that border the state and have some members in North Carolina, and nine telephone membership cooperatives.

The board also reviews plans for expansion or improvement of service before such plans are submitted to REA, monitors the quality of co-op service and otherwise assists rural utility co-ops.

The three newly appointed members are all co-op members.

L. Calvin Duncan of Clarkton is the secretary/treasurer of the board of Brunswick EMC. He is president of Duncan's Insurance World, an independent insurance company, and is an assistant superintendent with the N.C. Department of Corrections. He serves on the boards of the Whiteville City Schools and the Columbus County Department of Aging.

Joseph G. Justice of Hot Springs is the secretary of the board of French Broad EMC. He has served on that board for 19 years. He owns Larry's Exxon service station and grocery in Hot Springs. He and his wife live in Hot Springs, and their two daughters also live in Madison County.

William K. Taylor of Statesville is a member of Crescent EMC and has served on Crescent's Member Advisory Committee. A graduate of Coyne Electrical School and Wake Forest University, he was a craft manufacturer before working as a computer consultant and data processing director. He is retired, owns and manages property in the Statesville area and is a director of the Cool Springs Volunteer Fire Department.

These members replace three whose terms expired: R.B. Sloan Jr., executive vice president of Crescent EMC, who served eight years; Henry Gabriel, a board member of Crescent EMC, who served six years; and Gerald Montgomery of Pineville, who served one year. They join two members presently serving: Richard Cox of Ashleboro and Robert Thornton of Clinton, a member of Jones-Onslow EMC.

The NCREA is managed by administrator Gary Strickland, who was appointed by Gov. Hunt earlier this year. Strickland had previously worked for the Public Staff of the state Utilities Commission.

Rural Electrification Administration

North Dakota native Wally Beyer, a veteran of 30 years working with electric cooperatives and the federal organization he now heads, is the 13th administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration.

As REA administrator with a 10-year appointment, Beyer oversees management of a portfolio of more than \$39 billion in loans to rural electric and telephone utilities. He will also serve as governor of the Rural Telephone Bank.

In 1967 Beyer was named general manager of Verendrye Electric Cooperative, Inc., Velva, N.D., an electric distribution co-op serving more than 8,400 members in six counties in north central North Dakota.

Beyer succeeds James B. Huff of Mississippi, who served as administrator from June 1992 to October 1993.



New REA chief Wally Beyer

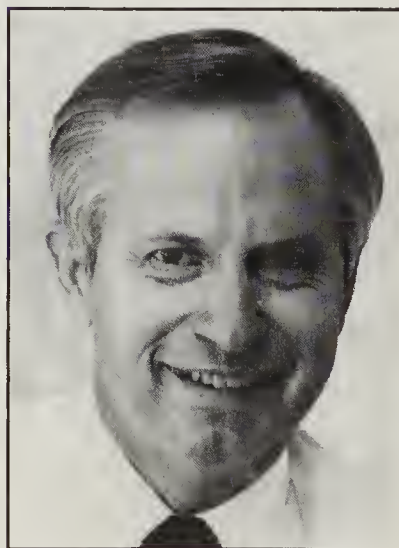
National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association

Oklahoma Congressman Glenn English has been named executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Washington-based national trade association for electric co-ops.

English, a Democrat, has represented rural Oklahoma for 10 terms and chairs the Agricultural Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit and Rural Development, which oversees the Rural Electrification Administration.

He has been one of co-ops' strongest friends in Congress and sponsored federal legislation to protect co-op service territories from annexation. English is also a member of the Congressional Rural Caucus and the Conservative Democratic Forum.

He succeeds Bob Bergland, who will retire in March, to become the fourth



New NRECA chief Glenn English

chief executive of NRECA in its 52-year history.

NRECA President J.C. Roberts said English will provide strong program leadership in an era of increasing utility competition.

"Mr. English will bring to this association extensive political and legislative experience as well as a thorough understanding of consumer-owned cooperative utilities and their historic and essential role all across the country," Roberts said.

Luffa shows potential as North Carolina crop

Agricultural scientists at North Carolina State University think the unusual luffa gourds could be a profitable part of some North Carolina farms.

Luffa gourds are nature's scouring pads. When the skin is stripped from dried gourds and the seeds shaken out, what remains is a tough spongelike material. Luffa sponges can be used for a variety of cleaning chores—from scrubbing human skin in the shower to scouring the tires on the family car.

But numbers are what make luffa gourds of interest to agricultural scientists like Todd Wehner, a crop breeder in NCSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Jeanine Davis, a researcher and North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service horticultural crops specialist stationed at NCSU's Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center at Fletcher.

Farmers can get 25-50 cents per gourd from luffa-product manufacturers and can grow roughly 20,000 gourds per acre, Wehner said. That translates into a gross income of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per acre from luffa gourds.

Wehner this year began a luffa breeding effort where he planted 70 different kinds of gourds. His goal is to develop a luffa variety that is prolific and produces gourds the size and shape buyers want and is suited to North Carolina growing conditions.

Davis said one grower in Yancey County grows several acres of the gourds.

Luffa gourds can be grown anywhere in North Carolina. The luffa is a tropical plant and requires a long growing season.

"There definitely is a market (for luffa gourds)," said Davis, adding that if production practices can be refined to the point North Carolina growers can be competitive with foreign growers, there is every reason to believe the gourds can become a North Carolina crop.

For more information, contact Wehner at (919) 515-6363 or Davis at (919) 684-3562.



Todd Wehner (right), a crop breeder in N.C. State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Rufus Horton, a research technician, examine luffa gourds grown at the N.C. Department of Agriculture research station near Clinton.

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Hank's Gardening Guide

by Hank Smith



Severe weather has passed when maple trees begin to leaf out.



Faint hints of spring, such as bulbs beginning to show signs of color, should remind us that winter chores must be completed soon.

When new leaves appear on deciduous plants, it is too late for heavy pruning, dormant spraying, and planting bare-root trees and shrubs.

Now's a good time to start annuals in a protected spot. Also, now's the time to root cuttings of houseplants and deciduous shrubs needed to fill gaps in the overall landscape.

Insects

Inspect deciduous shrubs and trees for infestations of scale insects. A spray of dormant oil emulsion should give you good control.

To control scale insects on evergreen ornamental plants, wait until the temperature is above freezing and below 85 degrees, then apply a lightweight summer oil emulsion.

Gift plants in the garden

Many flowering houseplants that enlivened the house during the holidays can be enjoyed as outdoor plants. They should be removed from their pots and set in fertile soil.

Chrysanthemums, azaleas and hydrangeas are examples of potted plants that usually thrive outdoors.

Christmas cactus, kalanchoe, and African violets can be left in their containers and grown indoors. Or, they can benefit when placed in a shady spot outdoors after warm weather arrives. Be sure to return them to the house before cold weather next fall.

Other holiday plants such as cyclamen and cineraria should be considered in the same class as cut flowers. When the blooms fade, discard them.

Landscape needs

Homeowners with a new property should make plans now to landscape their grounds. To avoid costly mistakes, it is advisable to consult a landscape architect or landscape gardener. If you are doing your own landscape planning and planting, be sure to PLAN before you plant.

You'll want to keep maintenance in mind as long-range plans are developed. There are definite fixed features with which to work — such as the size of the house, the size of the yard, soil type, and sun/shade problems (or assets).

Keep in mind that you are planning for the convenience of your family. As the family grows or ages, your needs will change, as will time and energy available to devote to yard work.



Early start with vegetables

Seeds for indoor sowing now include tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and broccoli. When warm weather arrives, these plants should be large enough to set outdoors.

Seeds of mustard, beets, carrots, radishes, spinach and turnips may be sown directly into the garden in the next few weeks — just as soon as mild weather arrives. (The old wisdom tells us that severe weather has passed when maple trees begin to leaf out.)

Planting

Continue planting container-grown, balled and burlapped, and bare-root trees and shrubs. The ideal period for planting will run out within a few weeks. This is the last call for successfully planting bare-root shrubs and trees.

Don't neglect plants set out earlier. Water them when necessary, and maintain a mulch around them.

Houseplants in the garden

Winter houseplants of impatiens, geraniums, begonia and coleus often become leggy and overgrown by late winter. Cuttings of these plants can be rooted now. Place cuttings in container of moist sand; keep soil moist.

Strong root systems will develop before weather warms in the spring. You'll welcome these new plants and the color they lend to outdoor flowerbeds this summer.

1. As you finalize plans for flower and vegetable gardens, buy seed locally or get orders in the mail quickly. The local county Cooperative Extension office will provide information regarding best varieties for your area.

2. Seed or reseed fescue lawns late this month or in early March.
3. Fertilize spring-flowering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils. Apply two pounds of 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 per 1,000 square feet.
4. If any shrubs have reddish-brown foliage as a result of winter freezes, wait until new growth appears to do any drastic pruning.
5. If available, apply old rotted cow manure around roses. Replace the mulch.
6. Apply pre-emergence crabgrass herbicide to lawns.
7. Place wood ashes from the fire place around roses, irises, peonies and lilacs. Apply with a light hand and scratch into the soil. Take care not to disturb roots.
8. Delay pruning hydrangeas until after they flower. To prune now will remove flowerbuds.

Answers to
"What's in a Name?", page 10

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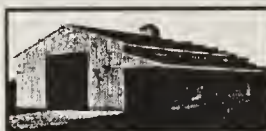
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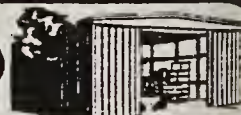
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Sympathy for a culinary outcast.

More country talk: Readers share some favorite sayin's

How would you fill in the blank in the following sentence? She's just a cute as a _____ pup.

I'd call it a speckled pup, as would one of our readers who sent us several "country talk" sayin's after reading our November column on the subject. However, another reader's colloquial one-liners referred to a spotted pup.

Both readers were inspired to submit some of their favorite sayin's when they read my piece about the book "Country Talk." It's a collection of 900 such comments put together by Charlotte Observer reporter Diane Suchetka.

Mrs. Louise Ott of Eutawville, S.C., who described the pup as speckled, said she had never "laughed so hard or enjoyed reading anything so much" as she did the November column. She added that she "adores" Carolina Country and looks forward to it each month.

The spotted dog was mentioned in the sayin's that came from Henry Smith of Raleigh, who does such a fine job writing "Hank's Gardening Guide" for us each month.

In addition, we received several from Dorothy Jordan of South Mills, who says she "loves the magazine" so much she saves every issue. She recalled some sayin's from her childhood in Michigan.

These sayin's are on page 29.

Meanwhile, other recent columns also stirred responses from readers.

After we wrote about mint julep recipes, Pat Goss of Wingate decided to share her personal recipe for the famous drink. It was essentially the same as those we published, but it arrived in an unusual form: a snapshot showing a white stoneware pitcher with the recipe inscribed on the side in bold, navy blue letters. She said it came from Louisville, "Derby Town, USA."

She added, "I ask you, how authentic can you get?"

Mrs. Goss, who is now retired, is a native of Louisville who moved to North Carolina in 1971.

That column also caught the eye of Lois Yoder of Rocky Mount, who thought we might be kindred spirits when she read that I don't care for mint juleps because I dislike mint.

She wrote, "AT LAST I've found another mint hater who shares none of my family tree. I had just about concluded that a hereditary genetic defect was the cause, since my one sister and I—as well as two of my double first cousins—all have an aversion to mint."

These "mint haters" are not considered normal by other members of the family, she said. In fact, her sister Judith often endured "torture" as a teenager when their brother Bob would "try to stuff an after-dinner mint into her mouth."

Mrs. Yoder, who receives Carolina Country as a consumer-member of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation, Tarboro, says her affliction is especially a problem when her husband and children enjoy mint candies or gum after dining out. With all that "breath freshener" filling the air inside the car on the way home, she says "It's all I can do to keep from holding my nose."

She asked if I've had any unpleasant experiences related to my dislike of mint. I haven't, but I must admit I'm not in her league because I can't honestly say I hate the flavor. I'll pass if I'm offered mint ice cream or a mint drink—whether it's a julep or iced tea. Yet, I have no trouble tolerating mint in some forms: in mildly flavored after-dinner mints or in creamy candies that combine mint with chocolate. I've even been known to chew spearmint gum and eat Peppermint Patties—both of which Mrs. Yoder calls "disgusting."

Even so, I can offer her sympathy and understanding because I, too, have known the shame of being a misfit in one's own family. I, too, have felt the sting of verbal slurs that can stem from the taste buds' innocent preferences. Why? Because I hate peanut butter! I'll eat peanuts with the best of 'em, but don't give me the straight, "butterized" version, thank you! I can handle it only if it's gussied up in candy or cookies.

Can you imagine the grief I took from my friends when I was a kid who couldn't touch a PBJ sandwich? They said it was down right un-American to not like peanut butter. I've tried ever since to bear this burden quietly, sharing the secret with only those closest to me. But I find few sympathetic ears. Even my own children look askance at me: "Dad, you're sooooo weird if you don't like peanut butter!"

So, I offer Mrs. Yoder my best wishes as she continues to hold her head high amid a mint-less existence. As for me, I'll keep muddling through as best I can without peanut butter. Maybe we can team up on each other by organizing a support group for culinary outcasts. Anybody want to join us?

More Country Talk

From Louise Ott:

It's as cold as frog hair out there.
That's your tale. I sit on mine.
You're as crazy as homemade soap.
Where were you when the brains were passed out? Behind the door?
You're so ugly, your face would stop an eight-day clock.

From Hank Smith:

Don't take any wooden nickels.
Don't buy a pig in a poke.
She's so hungry she eats like a field hand.
A new broom sweeps clean.
He was as restless as a worm in hot ashes.
He's so tight he squeaks when he walks.
He's as tight as Dick's hatband.

From Dorothy Jordan:

In reference to a big car: It's so long you need to carry your lunch to fill the radiator.
He sure is a tall drink of water.
He's as dumb as a stump.
As limp-legged as cooked spaghetti.
He's as crooked as a barrel of snakes.
He's tighter'n the bark on a tree.
You can't make a silk purse from a crow's ear.
He's as slow as molasses in January.
I'll knock you into the middle of next week.



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Country Kitchen



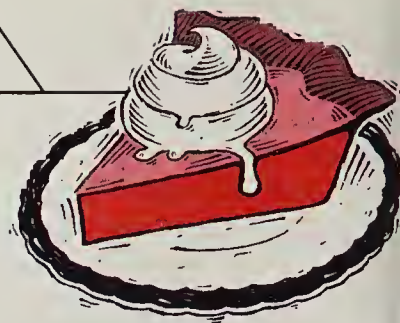
Fun for February.

Peaches and Cream Pie

Submitted by
Trudy L. Edwards, Rhodhiss

¼ cup self-rising flour
1 package (3½ ounces) instant
vanilla pudding
3 tablespoons butter
1 egg
½ cup milk or peach juice
1 large can peaches, drained
(save juice)

Combine all above ingredients except peaches and mix at medium speed for two minutes. Pour into well greased deep dish pie plate. Pour drained peaches over mixture.



1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese
½ cup sugar
3 tablespoons peach juice
1 tablespoon sugar
½ teaspoon cinnamon

Mix cream cheese, sugar and peach juice and pour over peaches and mixture. Combine sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle on top. Bake in 350 degree oven for 35 minutes.

"Here is a recipe my mother made for us when we were growing up." – Trudy L. Edwards

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